

MASSACHUSETTS

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CENTURY FARMS

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2000



*Family Farms  
Rooted in History*

Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture

Argeo Paul Cellucci, Governor

Jane Swift, Lt. Governor

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## Family Farms Rooted in History

September 17, 2000

The family farms of Massachusetts are truly rooted in the history of our Commonwealth and our nation. None more so than the 70 farms we honor today as Massachusetts Century Farms. The families that own and work these farms have done so for one hundred years or longer. Some families have persevered for more than two centuries, several for more than three.

The proprietors of these Century Farms have graciously shared with us the stories of their farms and their families. Many participants contributed complete farm histories and genealogical details. We thank them for their time and generosity in providing this information.

The farm profiles within these pages weave a tapestry of courage, determination, stewardship, ingenuity, entrepreneurship, patriotism and enduring family ties. This is the fabric of our history. Native Americans broke the ground of a new science and industry when they first reaped the harvest of the land. The early settlers sowed the seeds of a new nation when they arrived on these shores in search of a better life. Embattled farmers cultivated independence at Lexington and Concord. Today we enjoy the fruit of our forebears' labor.

Today, the Bay State has some 6,000 farms that maintain 570,000 acres of open, scenic farmland and produce \$457 million in cash receipts for our local economy. These farms provide us with fresh-from-the-field produce, high quality dairy products, hardy greenhouse and nursery stock, not to mention cranberries, turkey, maple syrup, honey, eggs, lamb and wool, and valued-added specialty foods.

I encourage you to help sustain agriculture here in the Commonwealth by patronizing your local farmstand or farmers' market. Farms truly are our stone wall against sprawl. I invite you to join me in congratulating these, our oldest and most enduring family farms, the Massachusetts Century Farms of 2000.

Sincerely,

Jonathan L. Healy  
Massachusetts Commissioner of Food and Agriculture

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
A Proclamation by Governor Argeo Paul Cellucci .....	3
List of farms by year established .....	4
List of farms by county and town.....	6
Massachusetts Century Farms 2000.....	8
Shay's Rebellion.....	9
The Salem Witch Trials of 1692 .....	16
Massachusetts Farm Viability Enhancement Program .....	19
French and Indian War.....	30
"Concord Hymn" by Ralph Waldo Emerson .....	58
Official Agricultural, Horticultural and Food Symbols of Massachusetts .....	64
Massachusetts Agriculture Today .....	66

MASSACHUSETTS CENTURY FARMS 2000

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

Massachusetts Century Farms Day

September 17, 2000

*WHEREAS 70 Massachusetts farms have been owned and worked by the same family for 100 years or more, and*

*WHEREAS some of these 70 farms have been passed down through the generations for more than two or three centuries, and*

*WHEREAS farmers and their families have played an integral role in the history of the Commonwealth, from the first Thanksgiving feast to the Battle of Lexington and Concord, through hard work and innovation they will persevere into a new millenium, and*

*WHEREAS farmers have provided sustenance to this state and this nation throughout the centuries, and*

*WHEREAS we honor these farms today on Heritage Day at the Eastern States Exposition, which, like other agricultural fairs, has a rich tradition of showcasing farms and their products, and*

*WHEREAS Massachusetts 6,000 farms today maintain 570,000 acres of open, fertile and scenic farmland that is so much a part of the character of the Bay State,*

*Now therefore do I, Argeo Paul Cellucci,  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
proclaim Sunday, September 17, 2000  
Massachusetts Century Farms Day.*

MASSACHUSETTS CENTURY FARMS 2000

MASSACHUSETTS CENTURY FARMS  
BY YEAR ESTABLISHED

Bartlett Farm .....	1650
Cold Springs Farm .....	1650
Richard D. Belden Farm .....	1661
Sargent Farm LLC .....	1670
Tobey Farm .....	1681
Ridge Hill Farm .....	1682
Bardwell Farm .....	1683
Richardson's Farms, Inc. ....	1690
Few Acres Farm .....	1699
Cook's Valley Farm .....	1705
Walter K. Morss & Son .....	1713
Spring Brook Farm .....	1713
Highloft Farm .....	1716
Silvermine Farm .....	1717
Luther Belden, Inc. ....	1719
Nourse Family Farm .....	1722
Clark Farm .....	1728
Ashland Farm .....	1730
Oake Knoll Farm Farm .....	1734
Crawford/Bigelow Farm .....	1736
Stimson Farm .....	1743
Fox Homestead .....	1745
Paine Farm .....	1749
Freeman Elms Farm .....	1750
Phelps Farm .....	1751
Coombs Hill Farm .....	1752
Gibraltar Farm .....	1762
Allen Farm .....	1762
Wolf Hill Farm .....	1764
Stone Farm .....	1765
Ridgeview Farm .....	1765
Dowse Orchards .....	1778
Kelso Homestead Farm .....	1779
Hawks Farm .....	1780
Burnett Farm .....	1781
Pilot Grove Farm .....	1782
Woodslawn Farm .....	1784

MASSACHUSETTS CENTURY FARMS 2000

MASSACHUSETTS CENTURY FARMS  
BY YEAR ESTABLISHED

Bridgmont Farm.....	1786
Blue Heaven Blueberry Farm.....	1789
O'Neil Farm.....	1800
Burroughs Farm.....	1800
Roundhill Orchard.....	1800
Stevens Farm.....	1805
Spring Valley Farm.....	1810
Maple Corner Farm.....	1812
Great Meadow Hill Farm.....	1818
Kimball Farm.....	1820
Rockhouse Farm.....	1825
Meadow Mist Farm.....	1836
Milestone Farm.....	1843
Glistening Brook Farm.....	1851
McNamara Farms.....	1856
Allandale Farm.....	1860
Maple East Farm.....	1864
Blood Farm.....	1866
Bullard Farm B&B.....	1866
Fairfield's Farm.....	1872
Austin Brothers Valley Farm.....	1875
Hunt Farm.....	1879
Howland Farm.....	1879
Sunny Crest Orchards.....	1880
Wilson Farms.....	1884
Dry Hollow Farm.....	1884
Turkey Hollow Farm.....	1888
Clover Hill Farm.....	1888
Double-R-Acres.....	1892
Williams & Alger, Inc.....	1893
Malden Brook Farm.....	1894
Hertel Farm.....	1898
Noquochoke Orchards, Inc.....	1899

MASSACHUSETTS CENTURY FARMS 2000

MASSACHUSETTS CENTURY FARMS  
BY COUNTY AND TOWN

<i>County</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Farm Name</i>
Barnstable	Dennis	Tobey Farm
Berkshire	Richmond	Fairfield's Farm
Berkshire	New Marlboro	Freeman Elms Farm
Berkshire	Williamstown	Ridgeview Farm
Bristol	Acushnet	Howland Farm
Bristol	Rehoboth	Great Meadow Hill Farm
Bristol	Westport	Noquochoke Orchards, Inc.
Dukes	Chilmark	Allen Farm
Essex	Boxford	Walter K. Morss & Son
Essex	Danvers	Clark Farm
Essex	Haverhill	Kimball Farm
Essex	Merrimac	Sargent Farm LLC
Essex	Middleton	Richardson's Farms, Inc.
Essex	Newburyport	Milestone Farm
Essex	Salisbury	Cold Springs Farm
Essex	Salisbury	Bartlett Farm
Franklin	Buckland	Glistening Brook Farm
Franklin	Colrain	Woodslawn Farm
Franklin	Colrain	Coombs Hill Farm
Franklin	Conway	Burnett Farm
Franklin	New Salem	Bullard Farm B&B
Franklin	Orange	Spring Valley Farm
Franklin	Orange	Hunt Farm
Franklin	Shelburne	Hawks Farm
Hampden	Chester	Gibraltar Farm
Hampden	Granville	Maple Corner Farm
Hampden	Huntington	Kelso Homestead Farm
Hampden	Ludlow	Paine Farm
Hampden	Wilbraham	Meadow Mist Farm
Hampshire	Belchertown	Austin Brothers Valley Farm
Hampshire	Cummington	Maple East Farm
Hampshire	Huntington	Rockhouse Farm
Hampshire	Middlefield	Blue Heaven Blueberry Farm
Hampshire	North Hatfield	Luther Belden, Inc.

MASSACHUSETTS CENTURY FARMS  
BY COUNTY AND TOWN

<i>County</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Farm Name</i>
Hampshire	North Hatfield	Richard D. Belden Farm
Hampshire	Southampton	Dry Hollow Farm
Hampshire	Southampton	Wolf Hill Farm
Hampshire	Southampton	Roundhill Orchard
Hampshire	Westhampton	Bridgmont Farm
Middlesex	Boxboro	Ridge Hill Farm
Middlesex	Boxborough	Burroughs Farm
Middlesex	Chelmsford	Few Acres Farm
Middlesex	Dracut	Fox Homestead
Middlesex	Lexington	Wilson Farms
Middlesex	Littleton	Spring Brook Farm
Middlesex	Pepperell	Blood Farm
Middlesex	Sherborn	Dowse Orchards
Middlesex	Stow	Pilot Grove Farm
Norfolk	Brookline	Allandale Farm
Norfolk	Foxboro	Oake Knoll Farm
Norfolk	Stoughton	McNamara Farms
Norfolk	Wrentham	Cook's Valley Farm
Plymouth	Duxbury	O'Neil Farm
Plymouth	Pembroke	Turkey Hollow Farm
Plymouth	S. Carver	Williams & Alger, Inc.
Worcester	Barre	Stevens Farm
Worcester	Fitchburg	Hertel Farm
Worcester	Hadley	Phelps Farm
Worcester	Hardwick	Double-R-Acres
Worcester	Hardwick	Clover Hill Farm
Worcester	Hatfield	Bardwell Farm
Worcester	New Braintree	Ashland Farm
Worcester	No. Brookfield	Crawford/Bigelow Farm
Worcester	Oakham	Stone Farm
Worcester	Princeton	Stimson Farm
Worcester	Sterling	Sunny Crest Orchards
Worcester	Sutton	Highloft Farm
Worcester	Sutton	Silvermine Farm
Worcester	West Boylston	Malden Brook Farm
Worcester	Westboro	Nourse Family Farm

## ALLANDALE FARM

*Brookline, 1860s*

Allandale Farm on Allandale Road in Brookline was founded in the 1860s. It was a grant for services rendered to King George by Joseph Weld after the French and Indian War. Originally, the farm was several hundred acres and mixed hay, cattle, greenhouse crops and wood were produced.

The farm has never been sold to another family member. It has always been passed down directly to the heirs in each generation. Current owner Edward P. Lawrence inherited the farm after it was passed from his grandfather and grandmother to his father.

Today, Allandale Farm has about 30 acres of tillable farmland. A variety of vegetables, greenhouse crops and pumpkins are produced and sold through the farm's roadside farmstand.

## ALLEN FARM

*Chilmark, 1762*

The Allen Farm on South Road in the Martha's Vineyard town of Chilmark was founded in 1762 by Jonathan Allen. Current owners Clarissa Allen and Mitchell Posin acquired the farm in 1971 from Clarissa's father, Roger Allen, and aunt, Alice Allen Weeks.

Sheep, pigs, beef and chickens are raised on 90 or so acres and sold through a roadside farmstand.

## ASHLAND FARM

*New Braintree, 1730*

Ashland Farm on Oakham Road in the Central Massachusetts town of New Braintree was founded in 1730 by Jacob Nichols. Cattle, sheep, hay, Indian corn, oats, barley, rye and potatoes were raised on the original 100 acres. The farm has passed through nine generations of this family of Nichols, Pierces and Pollards.

Moses Pollard, with the help of other farmers, formed the New Braintree Cheese Factory. This cheese was in such high demand in Boston because of its quality and flavor that other cheesemakers tried to copy the New Braintree seal.

Leroy H. Pollard, in his last will and testament, bequeathed a library to the town in 1984 which replaced the one that burned down in January of 1977. His wife Helen Pollard was librarian for four years and served as a trustee for many years.

New Braintree was also very active in Shays Rebellion. On February 2, 1787, 170 soldiers from Worcester marched by the farm intent on dissolving a meeting in New Braintree. Shots were fired and prisoners were taken.

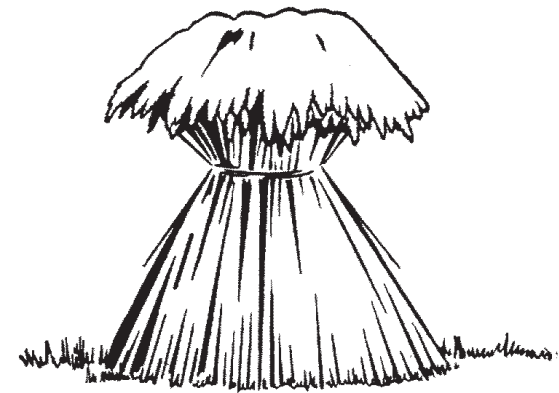
Today, owners Herbert and Nancy Pollard raise replacement heifers and beef, as well as hay, vegetables, sweet corn, winter squashes, and pumpkins on 200 acres. They market their products through several channels including wholesale, farmers' markets and a farmstand.

## *Shays Rebellion*

*By 1789, Northampton farmers were struggling in the economic depression that followed the Revolutionary War. Merchants in Eastern Massachusetts, anxious to retire the war debt, pushed land-based taxes through the legislature. Since merchants held little land compared to farmers, these taxes had a much more severe impact on Western Massachusetts. Farmers here relied on barter and were land-rich but cash-poor.*

*Few could pay these new taxes. In such cases, the Articles of Confederation that preceded the U.S. Constitution allowed states to confiscate indebted farms. In protest, on August 29, 1789, Daniel Shays, a land holder from the nearby town of Pelham, mustered 500 of his fellow farmers and marched on the Hampshire County Courthouse. They successfully prevented the Court of Common Pleas from convening to seize property. Shays Rebellion was a well-timed political event. It occurred while Americans were electing delegates to the Constitutional Convention and is considered to have influenced significantly the outcome of the new Constitution.*

*Source: A Brief History of Northampton, Mass.,  
www.noho.com*



## AUSTIN BROTHERS VALLEY FARM

*Belchertown, 1875*

Austin Brothers Valley Farm on West Street in Belchertown was founded in 1875 by Michael F. Austin. At 68 acres, the farm then was much smaller than it is today, though many of the same crops and products were produced including dairy cows, corn, hay and apples.

The farm has passed through several generations of the Austin Family including founder Michael F. Austin, Joseph F. Austin, and current owners Michael and Katherine Austin, and William and Roxanne Austin.

The Austin Brothers Valley Farm continues as a working dairy farm and also produces hay, corn, beef cattle and hogs on 140 acres. The farm's products are sold wholesale, though the brothers are working on a farmstand that is slated to open in the fall of 2000.

## BARDWELL FARM

*Hatfield, 1674*

Bardwell Farm on Main Street in Hatfield was founded in 1674 by Robert Bardwell. Grain, hay, beef cattle and sheep were raised on the original 20 acres. As the farm was passed down through generations of Bardwells, various crops were raised, as dictated by the economy.

Current owners A. Cory and Helen Bardwell grow tobacco, cucumbers, and corn on 30 tillable acres and manage 21 acres of woodland. The Bardwells, who acquired the farm in 1980 from A. Cory's father and mother, sell all their products wholesale.

## BARTLETT FARM

*Salisbury, mid 1600s*

Abraham Morrill founded Bartlett Farm on Main Street in Salisbury in the mid 1600s. Although the original size is unknown, it is known that sheep, cattle and timber were the farm's first products. The barn was originally built to house oxen. A tremendous amount of lumber was harvested, sawn and hauled to Newburyport for ship building in the days of the Tall Ships.

Nine generations of Morrills and Bartletts have been stewards of this land and also of Cold Spring Farm, also in Salisbury, another Century Farm. The two farms today account for 875 acres of open space in this Essex County town.

Current owners Donna and Robert Bartlett raise vegetables, horticultural products and Scotch Highland cattle, and also produce lumber in their saw mill.

## BLOOD FARM

*Pepperell, 1866*

Blood Farm on Mason Street in Pepperell was founded in 1866 by Mary and John Blood. Potatoes, apples, and peaches were raised on the original 60 acres. Later, the men were primarily teamsters. Between 1954 and 1977, the farm was a dairy with 80-90 milkers. Poultry and eggs, sweet corn, rye seed and straw have also been produced on the farm in the past.

The farm has passed through four generations of the Blood Family. In the late 1800s, John Henry and Ernest Blood hauled logs with the teamsters to Thompson's Reel Mill in West Groton and to Fessendens Barrel factory in Townsend. Ernest Blood hauled granite curbing from Milford, New Hampshire to Framingham, Massachusetts on Route 9 with a 1933 GMC truck. He also hauled many logs to mills after the 1938 hurricane.

Current owner John H. Blood acquired the farm in 1958 from his father, Ernest, and today produces hay and firewood on 140 acres.

## BLUE HEAVEN BLUEBERRY FARM

*Middlefield, 1789*

Blue Heaven Blueberry Farm on Skyline Trail in Middlefield was founded in 1789 by Israel Pease. Sheep, cattle and chickens were raised on the original 150 acres and maple sugar and syrup were also produced.

This Hampshire County farmland has passed through numerous generations of the Pease family including founder Israel Pease, Morgan Pease, Asher Pease, Dan Pease, Elbert Asher Pease, Howard Francis Pease, Henry Stanton Pease, Ethel Mae Pease and current owners Maurice and Nancy Pease who acquired the farm in 1962.

Maurice and Nancy now specialize in raising cultivated blueberries and raspberries on 28 acres. The berries are sold wholesale and pick-your-own.

## BRIDGEMONT FARM

*Westhampton, 1786*

Bridgemont Farm on Chesterfield Road in Westhampton was founded in 1786 by Elisha Bridgeman on the old Albany to Boston turnpike. According to the farm's historical records, the Marquis de Lafayette passed by this home while in America. At one time, the farm had more than 350 acres and dairy and maple products, as well as lumber and hay, were produced.

The farm passed through several Bridgman generations (Elisha, Clark and Franklin), then became a Montague homestead when Franklin's daughter married Alfred Montague.

Current owners Peter and Mary Montague have operated the farm since 1976 when they acquired it from Peter's grandfather Edward Montague. Today the Montagues raise beef cattle, hay and corn and produce maple products on 200 acres.

## BULLARD FARM B&B AND CONFERENCE CTR

*New Salem, 1866*

Bullard Farm on Elm Street in New Salem was founded by Eugene Bullard in 1866. Timber was originally the primary crop on this 400 acre farm. Eugene's sons William and Robert marketed themselves as "manufacturers and dealers in native lumber."

At one time the farm had 200 chickens, pigs, cows, work horses, corn fields, potato fields and a saw mill. When once asked, however, "What do you grow on your farm, Mr. Bullard?" he replied "Rocks!"

The next generation, Dorothy Bullard Fittz and her husband Paul Fittz, planted 90 cultivated blueberry bushes and ran a commercial nursery business.

Current owners Janet Kraft and Jean Hankins are the fourth generation to own Bullard Farm, acquiring it in 1989 from their mother Dorothy Bullard Fittz. The farm is still about 400 acres and timber and blueberries are produced. The blueberries are sold at the farm's roadside stand.

## BURNETT FARM

*Conway, 1781*

Burnett Farm on Ashfield Road in Conway was founded by Archibald Burnett in 1781. Sheep and cattle were raised and maple syrup produced on the original 55 acre farm.

The Ashfield/Conway town line runs through the chimney in the center of the house. When Ashfield incorporated in 1765, the town line was moved to the east through the existing house. In 1953 the Burnetts moved the sugar house to its roadside location, making it the first sugarhouse in Massachusetts to be set next to the highway.

Now run by the sixth and seventh generation of Burnetts, the farm has passed through the generations from Archibald to Daniel to Lionel to Willis to L. Frank and then to Donald. Current owner Josephine Burnett began operating the farm with her husband Donald in the 1950s.

Burnett Farm now produces maple syrup, cordwood, hay, heifers and beef cattle on 343 acres.



## BURROUGHS FARM

*Boxborough, c. 1800*

Burroughs Farm, on Burroughs Road in Boxborough, was founded by Zabine C. Burroughs around 1800. Cattle, vegetables, apples, hops and asparagus were raised on the original 90 acres.

Six generations of the Burroughs family have owned and farmed this Middlesex County land, including founder Zabine C. Burroughs, Charles H. Burroughs, George W. Burroughs, H. Prescott Burroughs, Ruth G. Burroughs and Sylvia (Burroughs) Sheehan.

Sylvia Sheehan passed away earlier this year and it is hoped that her nieces and nephews will continue to keep the land actively farmed under family ownership. Pumpkins are now being raised on the 61 acre farm.

## CLARK FARM

*Danvers, 1728*

Clark Farm on Hobart Street in Danvers is located in the Salem Village Historic District, site of the infamous 1692 Witchcraft Delusion and one of the oldest farming regions in English-settled North America. Founded in 1728 by Peter Hobart, the 12 acre farm was originally a subsistence farm raising lettuce, chicory, greens, cabbage, squash, tomatoes and corn.

The farm passed through nine generations of the Hobart and Clark family including Peter Hobart, Peter and Deborah (Hobart) Clark, Caleb Clark and his son also named Caleb, Perley Clark, William Perley Clark, George Clark, W. Hobart Clark, and to its current owner William (Bill)H. Clark, Jr.

Historical highlights of the farm include the original 1728 saltbox farmhouse, 19<sup>th</sup> century shoe shop and privy, 1901 market wagon as well as agricultural antiques from various Danvers farms.

A farmstand and greenhouse operation has replaced wholesale truck farming in the past 40 years. Clark Farm borders Endicott Park and other conservation areas. Deer, coyotes, wild turkeys, etc. frequently visit this suburban agricultural oasis and can often be seen from the farmstand parking lot.

Bill Clark now raises perennials, bedding plants, strawberries, tomatoes, corn, raspberries, vegetables, honey and eggs, which he sells at the farmstand and at farmers' markets. He acquired the farm in 1982 from his father and mother W. Hobart Clark, Sr. and Essie Clark. This Century Farm has embraced the new millenium by setting up a web site at [www.clarkfarm.com](http://www.clarkfarm.com).

## *The Salem Witch Trials of 1692*

*The events which led to the Witch Trials actually occurred in what is now the town of Danvers, then a parish of Salem Town, known as Salem Village. Launching the hysteria was the bizarre, seemingly inexplicable behavior of two young girls; the daughter, Betty, and the niece, Abigail Williams, of the Salem Village minister, Reverend Samuel Parris.*

*In February, 1692, three accused women were examined by Magistrates Jonathan Corwin and John Hathorne. Corwin's home, known as the Witch House, still stands at the corner of North and Essex Streets in Salem, providing guided tours and tales of the first witchcraft trials. John Hathorne, an ancestor of author Nathaniel Hawthorne, is buried in the Charter Street Old Burying Point.*

*By the time the hysteria had spent itself, 24 people had died. Nineteen were hanged on Gallows Hill in Salem Town, but some died in prison. Giles*

*Corey at first pleaded not guilty to charges of witchcraft, but subsequently refused to stand trial. This refusal meant he could not be convicted legally. However, his examiners chose to subject him to interrogation by the placing of stone weights on his body. He survived this brutal torture for two days before dying.*

*It is remarkable 552 original documents pertaining to the witchcraft trials have been preserved and are still stored by the Peabody Essex Museum. Eerie memorabilia associated with the trials, such as the "Witch Pins" used in the examination of witches and a small bottle supposed to contain the finger bones of the victim George Jacobs can be found there as well.*

*Source: City of Salem, Massachusetts, web site  
<http://www.salemweb.com/guide/witches.htm>.*



## CLOVER HILL FARM

*Hardwick, 1888*

Clover Hill Farm on Barre Road in Hardwick was founded by Henry Prouty in 1888. Originally 180 acres, the farm produced apples and milk. Dairy farming was the main source of income for most of the last century. Several generations of Proutys have worked the land including Henry Prouty, Charles Prouty, Arthur and Homer Prouty, and now Steve and Robin Prouty.

The cows were sold in 1995 and since then the Prouty family has relied on direct sales of hay, corn and produce. They built a small but very attractive farmstand and country store on the main road, retailing as many of their own farm-raised products as possible.

Steve and Robin acquired the farm in 1983 from Steve's father and uncle. The Proutys now own 300 acres and rent another 262 acres. They raise hay, corn silage, sweet corn, pumpkins, assorted veggies, cranberries, Holstein heifers, feeder steers, sheep, laying hens and turkeys. Their family goal is to try to maintain Clover Hill as a farm well into the next century.

## COLD SPRING FARM

*Salisbury, mid 1600s*

Abraham Morrill founded Cold Spring Farm on Congress Street in Salisbury in the mid 1600s. Although the original size is unknown, it is known that sheep, cattle and timber were the original products produced. The barn was originally built to house oxen. A tremendous amount of lumber was harvested, sawn and hauled to Newburyport for ship building in the days of the Tall Ships.

Nine generations of Morrills and Bartletts have been stewards of this land and also of Bartlett Farm, also in Salisbury, another Century Farm. The two farms today account for 875 acres of open space in this Essex County town.

Cold Spring Farm is now a dairy and hay operation run by current owner William Bartlett.

## COOK'S VALLEY FARM

*Wrentham, 1662*

Walter Cook founded Cook's Valley Farm on West Street in Wrentham in 1662, raising cattle and tree fruit. Although the original acreage is unknown, the farm's history says that it was "east of the great river" and on both sides of the Peters River in neighboring Bellingham.

Ten generations of Cooks have run the farm since 1662. Abner Cook was named in a will written in 1752 by Josiah Cook as inheriting land with apple trees and pastures at the farm's present location. In 1828, the original farm house was torn down and a much larger one built and still stands today.

In the mid 1900s, the farm was a modern dairy and poultry operation. Now the farm is once again raising tree fruit and vegetables. Everard Cook, who ran the farm in the 1950s, had the foresight to know that modern lifestyles would trend toward convenience. He always said that people don't want to cook but rather buy something they can eat out of hand.

Current owners Warren and Marilyn Cook and Ernest Cook raise 25 acres of vegetables, five acres of tree fruit and maintain 100 acres of woodland. They sell their fruits and vegetables directly to consumers at their roadside farmstand and at farmers' markets. The Cooks have participated in the state's Farm Viability Enhancement Program to help ensure the future of their farm.

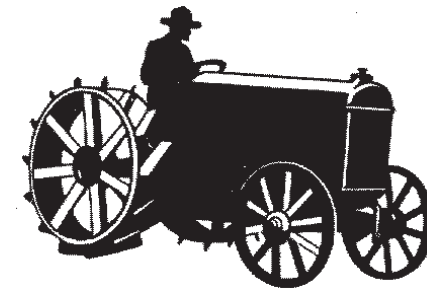
### *Massachusetts Farm Viability Enhancement Program*

*The Massachusetts Farm Viability Enhancement Program is designed to improve the economic bottom line and environmental integrity of participating farms through the development and implementation of farm viability plans developed by teams of agricultural, economic and environmental consultants.*

*The team assesses the current farm operation and suggests ways to increase on-farm income through such methods as improved management*

*practices, diversification, direct marketing, value-added initiatives and agri-tourism. In addition, recommendations concerning pollution prevention and resource conservation are made.*

*Funding for implementation of the recommendations may be available in exchange for an agricultural use covenant on the property. The covenant would require that the property be used only for farming for a prescribed number of years.*



## COOMBS HILL FARM

*Colrain, 1752*

Coombs Hill Farm on Coombs Hill Road in Colrain was founded by Deacon James Wilson in 1752. Apples and dairy were the primary products raised on the original 400 acre farm. Three years after the original purchase, Deacon James Wilson bought the  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre house lot across the road in Colrain so that he and his family could go to church in Colrain. One had to be a resident to do so.

The farm has passed through 10 generations of Wilsons and Coombs. Current owners Russell and Sandra Coombs have run a 270 acre dairy operation raising registered Holsteins, hay and corn since 1977 when they acquired the farm from Russell's father Edwin W. Coombs.

## CRAWFORD/BIGELOW FARM

*North Brookfield, 1736*

Silas Bigelow founded the Crawford/Bigelow Farm on Bigelow Road in North Brookfield in 1736. Dairy cows, hay, corn and chickens were originally raised on the 110 acre farm. Native Americans had named this land in Central Massachusetts "Machuk Meadows."

Five generations of Bigelows and Crawfords have farmed this land including Silas Bigelow, Jason Bigelow, Martin L. Crawford, Sr., Martin L. Crawford, Jr. and current owners George and Louise Crawford.

George and Louise acquired the farm in 1981 and now produce hay.

## DOUBLE-R-ACRES

*Hardwick, 1892*

Double-R-Acres on Jackson Road in Hardwick was founded by Joseph R. Robinson in 1892. Originally 140 acres, the farm produced vegetables, cattle and poultry.

Four generations of Robinsons have tilled the soil here including Joseph R. and Gertrude Robinson, Joseph S. and Ova Robinson, Raymond G. Robinson, Sr. and his wife Dorothy Robinson, and current owners Raymond and Pamela Robinson.

With the addition of 164 acres in the mid 1950s came an apple orchard business. Today, the Robinsons operate a dairy farm and produce hay and corn. In 1992, the Robinsons celebrated 100 years of farming on Double-R-Acres with over 400 in attendance.

## DOWSE ORCHARDS

*Sherborn, 1778*

In 1778 Joseph Dowse began raising fruits, vegetables, horses, cattle and poultry on North Main Street in Sherborn. He and his family had moved to Sherborn just prior to the Battle of Bunker Hill and settled the "Dowse's Corner" section of the town.

The Dowses were leather-dressers by trade. In addition to farming, they operated shoe manufacturing shops in the area until the 1860s.

The Dowses shipped fruit and vegetables by train to the Boston produce markets in the late 1800s. Fruit production has long been their specialty. Roadside stand sales began in the 1930s or 1940s and the first permanent store was built in 1953.

Six generations of Dowses have farmed this land including Joseph Dowse, Nathaniel Dowse, Charles H. Dowse, C. Arthur Dowse, Sr., Charles A. Dowse, Jr., and current owners Alex and Jonathan Dowse.

Today, Dowse Orchards produces apples, vegetables, greenhouse crops and Christmas trees on 130 acres. In addition to selling freshly picked produce at their farmstand, they also offer "pick-your-own" crops. From the American Revolution to the Internet revolution, the Dowses have a corner of cyberspace, too, at [www.dowseorchards.com](http://www.dowseorchards.com).

## DRY HOLLOW FARM

*Southampton, 1884*

William Bradford Gunn founded Dry Hollow Farm on Pleasant Street in Southampton in 1884. On the original 175 acres he produced dairy products, fruit, and vegetables and also maple syrup which he peddled door to door in Holyoke and Springfield.

The Gunns can trace their genealogy to Jasper Gunn who came to the colonies in 1635, and also to Governor William Bradford. William Bradford Gunn's son Clarence added more dairy cows and his son William added a sideline of poultry and eggs.

In 1948, when a fire destroyed the original house and barns, the farm was passed on to William and Ruth Gunn, parents of current owners George and Candice Gunn. They decided to farm exclusively as a dairy farm and upgraded to a milking herd of registered Holsteins. In 1953 they received the National Dairy Products Corp. Efficient Production Award.

In 1991, William Gunn suffered a stroke and the family decided to raise Angus cattle and sell hay. In December of 1999, Dry Hollow Farm was featured in the *Angus Journal* as a national prizewinner for best barn renovations. The Gunns converted a stanchion dairy barn to a free stall beef barn.

Today, the Gunns are participating in the Massachusetts Farm Viability Enhancement Program to improve their rotational grazing practices and overall forage management.



## FAIRFIELD'S FARM

*Richmond, 1872*

Fairfield's Farm on East Road in Richmond was founded by John Fairfield in 1872. Hay, corn, cows and sheep were raised on the original 100 acre farm.

This Berkshire County farm has passed through several generations of the Fairfield family including Mr. and Mrs. John Fairfield and current owner Mrs. Hilton Boynton who acquired the farm in 1945 from her great uncle John Fairfield.

The homestead dates to about 1790. It has a lovely large fireplace in the living room and a central chimney with six fireplaces – four on the first floor and two upstairs. The homestead was completely renovated in 1972 by Hilton Boynton.

Today, corn and hay are grown on the farm.

## FEW ACRES FARM

*Chelmsford, 1699*

In 1699 Deacon Joseph Warren and his wife Ruth received by deed of gift from Ruth's kinsman Major Thomas Hinchman the farm and house that today is FEW Acres Farm on Boston Road in Chelmsford. Apples, peaches, pears, eggs and milk were originally produced on the farm.

Ten generations later, the land is still farmed by a Warren: Franklin E. Warren who grows hay on 56 acres. In the passage of three centuries, the farm passed from Deacon Joseph and Ruth to Joseph Jr. and Tabitha, and subsequent generations of Warrens including Joseph and Joanna, Jeremiah and Rachel, Ephraim and Esther, Edwin Hinchman and Julia, Joseph Edwin and Elizabeth, Arthur Mellen and Mabel, Edwin Herbert and Miriam and, in 1986 to Franklin.

Amos Warren, brother of former owner Edwin Hinchman Warren, assumed the responsibilities of the farm at 13 years of age after their father's death. His journal entry from October 17, 1849 speaks of a typical day on the farm, that in some respects isn't so different from farm life today:

"A fine day – Edwin went to Lowell with the wood. I went up to Uncle Carlton's after our large hoe. Mr. Hall dug round trees in gate pasture in AM. In PM, Mr. Hall worked on the road and we put up a load of wood. Stripped the bean poles and cut the popcorn on Edwin's flat. Augustus and I killed a striped squirrel in Uncle Joseph's grove. Spent eve at home husking corn."

## FOX HOMESTEAD

*Dracut, 1745*

On May 23, 1745, King George II signed the deed to the Fox Homestead farm on Avis Avenue in Dracut over to Nathaniel Fox. Nathaniel had acquired a land grant in 1714. Dairy cows, poultry, sheep, pigs, corn, beans, squash, and tomatoes were among the products produced on the original 65 acres.

Current owner Alden E. Fox raises hay and corn on 30 acres. His grandfather used to deliver produce to Lowell by horse drawn wagon with a two horse team, but wouldn't touch a "machine."

Ownership of the Fox Homestead farm has passed through 10 generations: Nathaniel Fox (1683-1765), David Fox (1717-1759), David Fox II (1741-1832), Eliphalet Fox (1749-1809), Samuel Fox (1786-1868), Samuel Adams Fox (1825-1896), Eugene Fox (1865-1904), Clarence Fox (1892-1967), Archer D. Fox and Alden E. Fox.

The "old house" is still on the property. It was built sometime before 1790 as a single story; a second story was added in 1850. A new house was built in 1970 and the old house was boarded up. "The old house, we feel, is beyond repair" says Alden, "but I never quite got up the courage to tear it down. So our 'new house' is now 30 years old."



## FREEMAN ELMS FARM

*New Marlborough, 1750*

In 1750, Eli Freeman received a King's Grant for a 300 acre tract of land in Mill River. In 1760, Silas Freeman, son of Eli, and his family moved from their cabin in New Marlborough to the Mill River land. Eli died before the migration to Mill River, so Silas, being the oldest though not yet 20, became the head of the family.

In Mill River they erected a cabin a little to the south of the present homestead. They cleared land, built stone walls and rail fences, turned the soil, and raised crops. Silas married and raised a large family. In the summer of 1777, Silas marched off with other Berkshire contingents to the battle of Bennington. This was the prelude to the battle of Saratoga, where the British under General Burgoyne, were defeated. This battle became known as the turning point of the Revolutionary War.

On August 14, 1797, the framing of the house was pegged and raised, with the help of horses, oxen and many neighbors. Thus was born the Freeman Elms Homestead. Silas lived until 1837 when he died at the age of 93. Silas passed the farm to his son Herman, who in turn passed it to his son, Andrew. Andrew's only son, Henry, went to Nebraska in the early 1880s to go into the hardware business, thus the Freeman name could not be carried on at the homestead.

Andrew, besides being a farmer, served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives as a Democrat. He left the farm to his oldest daughter, Effie Karner. Effie was the widow of Dr. Edwin Karner who had an office at the farm. Effie ran the farm and to supplement her income, she took in summer boarders and teachers. In 1905, she had the back part of the house rebuilt and added the front porch. Effie died in 1914. Subsequent owners were her sister Harriet Freeman Ormsbee Lindsay and then Harriet's son, Edmund Ormsbee. In 1962, the farm went to his son, the present owner, John B. Ormsbee.

Today, hay, orchard fruit, timber and beef are raised on 600 acres. Always ready to embrace new technology, Freeman Elms Farm had the first telephone in New Marlborough and today has a web site at [www.vgernet.net/freeman](http://www.vgernet.net/freeman).

## GIBRALTAR FARM

*Chester, 1762*

Prior to 1762, Samuel Elder settled on the land that is now Gibraltar Farm on Skyline Trail in Chester. In 1762, the land was put up for auction to raise money for the Bay Colony and sold as "plantation 9." When the division of lots was made he was allowed to keep the land he had already cleared. He had a log cabin built and was living on the land with his family. The farm was originally 100 acres and cattle, horses, sheep, chickens and hay were raised.

The farm has passed through five generations of the Elder, Ingell and Oppenheimer family, having been owned by Samuel Elder, Nored Elder, Zadoc and Ann Ingell, Charles Ingell, and Robert and Grace Oppenheimer.

Though current owners Robert and Grace Oppenheimer are retired, hay is still produced on 50 acres.

## GLISTENING BROOK FARM

*Buckland, 1851*

The purchase and sales agreement between Edmund Miller Smith and Amasa Ward for Glistening Brook Farm on Upper Street in Buckland was signed on the seventeenth day of October 1851 and sealed with a fingerprint. The 70 acre farm including a cider mill, other buildings, hay, manure, loam, etc. was sold to Edmund Miller Smith for \$2500.

Wool, milk, maple syrup, apples and honey were among the farm's original products. In the 1920s, apples and maple syrup were the primary crops, then in 1930 the farm became a full-time dairy operation.

When Smith and his wife Mary Freeman Smith moved to the farm in April of 1852, Mary set out a shagbark walnut tree six feet from the northeast corner of the house next to a stream that has never dried up not matter how dry the summer months get. The tree grew to approximately 100 feet tall with a limb span towering over the house about 100 feet wide. The tree stood until the winter of 1999-2000 when current owner Edmund F. Smith sadly had to have the tree removed. It would have been 148 years old in April.

Today, current owner Edmund Smith raises registered Holstein and Hereford cows and hay.

## GREAT MEADOW HILL FARM

*Rehoboth, 1818*

Stephen Bowen, a Revolutionary War veteran, received in 1816 a pension from the U.S. government for his service in the Continental Army. The pension allowed him to purchase the farm that is now Great Meadow Hill Farm on Fairview Avenue in Rehoboth. The farm was purchased with a mortgage; it cost \$850, with a \$200 down payment.

The 14 acre farm was originally a general subsistence farm. It passed through six generations of the Bowen, Dexter and Dyer family, having been owned by Stephen Bowen (1818-1825), Stephen H. Bowen (1825-1843), Maria (Bowen) Dexter (1843-1933), Everett Otis Dexter (1933-1941), Alice Everett (Dexter) Dyer (1941-1950) and current owners E. Otis and Jean W. Dyer who acquired the farm in 1949.

Today, Great Meadow Hill Farm produces livestock, poultry, and sweet corn which is sold through a farmstand.

## HAWKS FARM

*Shelburne, 1780*

Hawks Farm on Hawks Road in Shelburne was originally part of a large land grant from the King of England given to Captain John Hawks for fighting in the French and Indian War. Hilckiah Hawks founded the farm in 1780. Cattle and lumber were among the first products of the farm.

Six generations of Hawks and Herrons have farmed this land in Franklin County, including Hilckiah Hawks, Orlando Hawks, James Hawks, Herman and Oscar Hawks, John C. and Esther Hawks Herron, and current owners John and JoAnn Herron. John and JoAnn started farming the land in 1963 and acquired it from John's mother in the late 1980s.

Today this 700 acre farm is a dairy operation.

## *French and Indian War*

*The French and Indian War (1754-1763) was the last of four North American wars fought from 1689 to 1763 between France and Great Britain and, with respective Native American and colonial allies. This concluded a series of conflicts which included King George's War; King William's War; Queen Anne's War, and were known collectively as the French and Indian Wars.*

*In 1753 the French began building forts from Lake Erie to the Ohio River to protect strategic interests in the Ohio Valley. In 1754 the French defeated the British troops at the Battle of Fort Necessity. Although the British and colonial troops achieved small victories, the French and their Native American allies won battle after battle. British and American forces finally defeated the French army at Québec in 1759. The Treaty of Paris, signed in 1763, ended French control in Canada and territories east of the Mississippi River.*

*This war determined that English ideas and institutions would influence North America. The British government acquired more territory than it could control and its attempts to raise revenue by taxing the colonies precipitated the American Revolution. France's desire to avenge its defeat resulted in an alliance with the American rebels and ultimately helped cause the fiscal crisis that climaxed with the French Revolution in 1789.*

*Source: Encarta 98 Desk Encyclopedia*



## HERTEL DAIRY FARM

*Fitchburg, 1898*

Robert Hertel emigrated from Germany to Rhode Island in the late 1880s. He was a weaver and sought better working conditions in America. He married another emigrant from Germany a few years later. Unfortunately the mills in Rhode Island were beset with strikes, so he moved with his growing family to Fitchburg to better his life.

Robert decided that he would like to bring his family up in a rural setting and bought a farm on Ashburnham Hill Road. The farm consisted of a house built in 1811 and about 40 acres of land. They moved onto the farm in May of 1898 and started in farming with absolutely no knowledge of farming, especially dairy. They told of surviving by trial and error and the advice of kindly neighbors. Robert walked to his mill job in town a distance of seven miles daily until they were able to start a milk route in 1901.

The Hertels built a stable for the cows in 1908 and slowly bought additional land and began to improve the pasture lands. They first delivered milk in horse-drawn wagons and sold the milk in jugs to housewives by the dipper full. The Hertels became one of the first farms to pasteurize their milk and deliver milk in bottles.

In 1917 their eldest son, Harry Sr., was drafted into the army. This could have been a serious set back as Harry did most of the milking and the field work. But as luck would have it, he never had to leave Ft. Devens in Ayer, Mass. and he was able to come home almost every night to help with the milking.

When Harry Sr. left the service he gradually took over most of the farm work and introduced many new ideas on the farm including having trenches dug in the fields to drain the excess water from the wet clay land. Over a mile of tile was laid down and still functions today almost 80 years later.

Harry improved the herd's health, increased milk production with careful breeding and increased the yield from the fields. He was one of the first local farmers that began artificial breeding and after 1942 the farm raised every cow used for milking on the farm. Harry introduced rotating pastures frequently to improve the quality of feed for the animals. Under his management, the farm was the Massachusetts recipient of the 1948 Green Pasture Award and

placed third in New England that year.

Harry Sr. continued to manage the farm until Robert died and then Harry Sr.'s son Norman bought the farm from the estate of Robert Hertel in 1955.

Norman continued to build up the herd and improve the pasture land. He added another 50 acres to the property. Norman continued to milk cows until 1998. Milk was sold in bulk during this time.

Most of the farm was protected under a state Agricultural Preservation Restriction in 1988 and will remain in agriculture in perpetuity.

In May of 1998 Norman's family joined him in celebrating 100 years of Hertels owning and operating the farm. Shortly thereafter the cows were sold to a neighboring farmer.

Although there are no longer any cows on the 202 acre Hertel Farm, Norman continues to raise over 50 acres of field corn and harvests 17 acres of hay fields. He continues to work diligently on improving the land just as his father and grandfather did before him.



## HIGHLOFT FARM

*Sutton, 1716*

The King Farm on King Road in Sutton was founded in 1716 by an ancestor of current owner William D. King. At one time, cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, and some vegetables were raised on the farm. Ten generations of the King family have owned the farm including Walter King, Charles King, Wallace King, Arthur King, and B. Franklin King. William and his wife Helen have four children, six grandchildren, and five greatgrandchildren. Sheep and hay are raised on the farm today and much of the land is leased to another farmer.

## HOWLAND FARM

*Acushnet, 1879*

George W. Howland, a whaling captain, founded the Howland Farm on Mendell Road in Acushnet in 1879. Before the Howland family, the Mendell family owned the farm and raised sheep. The Howland family originally raised dairy cows on the 70 acres.

The Howland farm has passed through seven generations of Howlands including George W. Howland, Hester Howland, William and Frank Howland, William Howland, Merle Howland, William Jr. and Harriet Howland, and current owner Harriet Howland.

The farm is located on the highest spot of land in Southeastern Massachusetts. It is now surrounded with new homes and development. A Girl Scout camp is located on the east side of the road and the Plymouth Bay Girl Scout Council would like to see the farm protected from development. Harriet says that the Howlands and the Girl Scouts have been good friends; the Howlands have watched the camp for them on occasion.

Hay and fruit are now raised on the farm and the produce is sold through a farmstand and also at a retail store.

## HUNT FARM

*Orange, 1879*

Joseph and Calista Hunt founded the Hunt Farm on South Main Street in Orange in 1879. Originally 40 acres, the farm is 350 acres today. In the early days of the Hunt Farm, horses, cattle and produce were raised and the farm included a blacksmith shop.

This Franklin County farm has passed through five generations of Hunts including Joseph and Calista Hunt, Frank and Hattie Hunt, Ralph and Helen Hunt, George and Nan Hunt and George Hunt Jr. and his wife Christina.

The Hunts now run a dairy operation but have expressed concern about the future of the farm citing low milk prices and various regulations among the challenges they face.

## KELSO HOMESTEAD FARM

*Huntington, 1779*

Captain John Kelso founded the Kelso Homestead Farm on Bramley Road in Huntington in 1779. Captain Kelso came from Worcester where he acquired his title as a member of the militia. At the time of purchase by the Captain, a small dwelling and barn on the property had been used as a stop for Boston to Albany stage coaches. Potatoes, apples, maple syrup, beef, butter, eggs, hogs and timber were all produced on the original 100 acre farm.

Six generations of Kelsos have owned the farm including Captain John Kelso (1779-1814), James Kelso (1814-1850), Joseph Kelso (1850-1875), John Kelso (1875-1927), Leon Kelso (1927-1961) and current owners James and Harriet (Kelso) Gilman.

The Kelso Homestead Farm is now 230 acres and blueberries, timber and hay are produced. The blueberries are sold "pick-your-own."

## KIMBALL FARM

*Haverhill, 1820*

Hazen Kimball founded Kimball Farm on East Broadway in Haverhill in 1820. The farm originally was home to an Ayrshire dairy herd and later a retail milk business – the first in the city of Haverhill.

Located along the Merrimack River, the farm was the site of an Indian encampment and has an Indian burial ground on it. Several Indian artifacts have been found on the property, the largest of which is an Indian mortar weighing over a ton. Kimball Farm has a geodetic marker on top of the hill that is on maps all over the world. Streams bound the farm on both ends of the property.

Six generations of Kimballs have owned this land in Essex County, including Hazen, Eliza and William Kimball, Fredrick and Emma Kimball, Leonard and Fannie Kimball, George and Ruth Kimball, and Leonard and Judith Kimball. Judith and her son Tyler C. Kimball now own and operate Kimball Farm.

In 1986 Kimball Farm diversified into raising llamas and in 1988 Tyler started a feed business to help him remain on the farm and earn a good living. Hay and beef cows are also raised on the farm. Kimball Farm's llamas have made the farm a major tourist attraction in the area.

## LUTHER BELDEN, INC.

*North Hatfield, 1719*

In 1719, John Belden founded the farm on Depot Road in North Hatfield that is now Luther Belden, Inc. The farm originally raised broom corn and livestock. Other crops and livestock raised in the past include onions, tobacco, potatoes, cucumbers, strawberries, and Southdown sheep. Many family members have received awards for prize-winning Southdown sheep.

Nine generations of the Belden and Williams family have owned this farm, including John Belden (1719-1725), Joseph Belden (1725-1760), Joseph Belden (1760-1800), Samuel Belden (1800-1835), Sanford S. Belden, (1835-1865), Oscar Belden (1865-1905), George Sanford Belden and Oscar Belden (1905-1935), Luther and Evelyn Belden (1935-1965), Gordon and Mary Williams.

The farm was split in half by Luther and Clifford Belden around 1935. In 1909, the onion storage building was dedicated by President Calvin Coolidge who was a state representative the time. The building is still used for grain and hay storage.

Today, the farm is a 175 acre dairy operation where corn, hay and alfalfa are raised.

## MALDEN BROOK FARM

*West Boylston, 1894*

Just before the turn of the last century, John and Almas Surabian founded Malden Brook Farm on Prospect Street in West Boylston in 1894. Dairy cattle, vegetables, and fruit trees were raised on the original 70 acres.

From 1900 until the late 1930s, the farm produced high quality vegetables and fruit of all kinds such as cucumbers, tomatoes, cabbage, potatoes, corn, watermelons, celery, peaches and apples. Certain areas of the farm were ideal for these vegetable and fruit crops with the land being very fertile and moist.

Family members who have been owners and stewards of this Worcester County farm include founders John K. and Almas Surabian; their three sons, Peter H., Simon, and Harry; their three daughters, Helen, Mabel M., and Nora M. Surabian Tashjian; and three grandchildren, Dr. Robert J. Tashjian, Edward P. Tashjian and Dr. Helen E. Tashjian.

The family members named the farm in the early 1930's. Malden Brook passes completely across the farm from I-190 to Lee Street in West Boylston.

After the mid-1930's, the farm was developed into a combination of market gardening, apple orchard and dairy farm. A herd of Ayrshire cattle was added and became one of the most outstanding Ayrshire herds in the country. The herd led nationally in receiving many consecutive constructive breeder awards from the Ayrshire Breeders Association. Every cow in the herd had the name Malden Brook before the individual name, establishing in the Ayrshire breed registry that these cows were bred, born and raised on the farm.

Malden Brook Farm is a typical New England farm with rocks, trees, swamps, hills and stone walls. Today, hay and horses are raised on the 202 acres. This farm will be preserved into the next millenium as a model New England farm by the Malden Brook Farm Heritage Foundation.

## MAPLE CORNER FARM

*Granville, 1812*

John Ripley founded Maple Corner Farm on Beech Hill Road in Granville in 1812. He had moved from Hartford, Connecticut and settled on the Blandford Homestead in 1812 and started farming. His son John B. Ripley settled the Granville Homestead in 1835. This property was comprised of several parcels which were added over the years to make up the 560 acres that are now farmed.

Early Ripley family owners raised Red Devon cattle and trained them as teams of oxen. For many years quality Hereford cattle were raised and showed at fairs. Kenneth L. Ripley showed the first grand champion baby beef at the Eastern States Exposition in 1927. Beef and dairy cattle were raised until 1974 as the main farm enterprise. Maple sugaring started in 1840 and continues today with production increasing over the years to their current 3500 tap operation with a maple museum and pancake restaurant. Hay production and cross country skiing round out the present day activities.

Maple Corner Farm has passed through eight generations of the Ripley family including John Ripley (1812-1835), John B. Ripley (1835-1840), John D. Ripley (1840-1882), Henry M. Ripley (1882-1931), H. Leon Ripley (1931-1940), Kenneth L. Ripley (1940-1950), Kenneth L. Ripley and Helen S. Ripley (1950-1966), Helen S. Ripley (1966-1972), Leon K. Ripley and Helen S. Ripley (1972-1982), Leon K. Ripley and Joyce M. Ripley (1982 to present).

Today, in addition to maple syrup and other maple products, hay, pick-your-own blueberries, wood and forest products are produced on the farm.

## MAPLE EAST FARM

*Cumington, 1864*

Alexis Wells founded Maple East Farm on Dodwells Road in Cumington in 1864. Cattle, sheep apples, and potatoes were raised on the original 65 acres.

Maple East Farm has passed through three generations of the Wells family including Alexis Wells, Darwin Wells, and current owner Francis R. Wells who inherited the farm in 1970.

At some point, Alexis Wells purchased an additional 110 acres. This acreage was sold to a niece and her husband in the late 1980s and today is operated as Clearview Christmas Tree Farm with about 40,000 Christmas trees planted.

Today, Maple East Farm is rented to another farmer who grows corn and hay and pastures some cattle on the land.

## McNAMARA FARMS

*Stoughton, 1856*

McNamara Farms on West Street in Stoughton was founded by James McNamara in 1856. The farm was a 60 acre dairy farm at that time and today is much the same as it was 144 years ago. The farm is now 73 acres and hay and corn are raised in addition to cows.

Three generations of the McNamara family have owned and operated the farm and sold milk in the town of Stoughton for over 100 years. Family owners include James McNamara, Charles McNamara and current owner Charles McNamara Jr. who acquired the farm in 1972.

## MEADOW MIST FARM

*Wilbraham, 1836*

Horace Clark founded Meadow Mist Farm on Stony Hill Road in Wilbraham in 1836. Originally over 500 acres, the farm produced vegetables and cattle. The house was built in 1730 and two old drinking troughs chiseled out of stone still exist on the farm.

Six generations of the Clark family have worked this land including Horace Clark, Frances Clark, Edgar C. Clark, Walter H. Clark, Ruth B. Clark and A. Shelly C. Clark.

Current owners Mrs. Walter H. Clark and Shelly C. Raschilla raise hay and berries on the farm which is now 71 acres. The berries are sold through a farm stand.

## MILESTONE FARM

*Newbury/Byfield, 1843*

John C. Adams founded Milestone Farm on Middle Road in Newbury in 1843. Originally 20 acres and known as the Adams Farm, the farm eventually grew to 1000 acres in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Apples, carrots, potatoes, hay, sheep, pigs and cordwood were among the farm's products.

Many of the acres were taken by the federal government to establish the Parker River Refuge. From the early 1900s to the 1950s, the farm was very active and well-known. A steam operated cider mill was in operation until the mid 1950s and still stands intact beside the road as it did a hundred years ago.

Milestone Farm has passed through five generations of the Adams family including Daniel Adams, John C. Adams, James K. Adams, Newell and J. Raymond Adams, and current owners Sylvia J. Littlefield and Sarah Jane Quill who acquired the farm in 1971.

Today the farm is about 175 acres and beef cattle, sheep, hay, and Arabian horses are raised.

## NOQUOCHOKE ORCHARDS, INC.

*Westport, 1899*

George and Marianne Smith founded Noquchoke Orchards on Drift Road in Westport just before the turn of the last century in 1899. Whaling captain William Ball bought the property in 1865 from Holder White in 1868. He built the house that still stands today. He was “master of Theo Chase,” a whale boat out of Westport Point in 1847.

Ball and his family planted many varieties old fashioned fruit trees, so there was already an established orchard when George Smith bought the farm in 1899. Some of those antique varieties still grow on the farm including Russets, Winesaps, Baldwins, Northern Spy, Red Spy, Huberstein, and Greenings.

Noquchoke Orchards was originally 100 acres and also raised dairy cows, steers, horses, chickens and pigs. At one point, the state took some of the land by eminent domain to construct Route 88 to Horseneck Beach.

Four generations of the Smith family have tended this land including George and Marianne Smith (1899-1930s), Alexander and Edale Smith (1930s-1947), Edale Smith (1947-1984), and current owners George, Herbert, Alexander Jr. Smith and Doris Mills. Four Georges have worked the farm in the last 100 years: the founder, the current owner, his son and his grandson.

Today, Noquchoke Orchards produces apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, plums, strawberries, blueberries, sweet corn, summer and winter vegetables, Macomber turnips and sweet pressed apple cider which are sold wholesale and at a farmstand and farmers’ markets. The farm is 79 acres, 36 of which are in fruit.

## NOURSE FAMILY FARM

*Westborough, 1720*

William Nurse and Ebenezer Nurse founded the Nourse Family Farm on Nourse Street in 1720. Nurse is the original spelling of the family name. In fact, the Nourse family are direct descendants of Rebecca Nurse who was hung during the Salem Witch Trials in 1692. The family moved from Salem to Westborough in 1720. This farm is a King’s grant farm.

The farm has been passed on through several generations of Nourses. In addition to William Nurse and Ebenezer Nurse, other family owners include Benjamin Nourse, Arthur M. Nourse, Arthur L. Nourse and current owners Timothy and Mary Nourse who acquired the farm in 1998.

Today, strawberries, raspberries, vegetables, and flowers are among the crops produced on the Nourse Family Farm.



## OAKE KNOLL/LAWTON'S FARM

*Foxborough, 1734*

Oake Knoll Farm – also known as Lawton's Farm – on North Street in Foxborough was founded by Jedidiah Morse in 1734. The farm was originally more than 1,000 acres. Jedediah also constructed a dam across the Neponset River and started a forge. He was a bloomer by trade. The Morse family is integral to the history of Foxborough. In fact, a section of North Foxborough was once called Morseville.

Morse family members to have owned and worked this land include founder Jedediah Morse, Jerimiah Morse, Amos Morse, Amos Morse Jr., Newell Morse, Edson Morse, Ruth Morse Lawton and current owners Edward and Nancy Lawton.

The houses of Amos Jr., Nelson, David and Newell Morse still stand. These four houses are still lived in though all have been sold except for Newell Morse's house.

From 1930 to the late 1970s, the farm was internationally known for the Lawton's Buff Sex Link chickens which were developed by selective mating. This business flourished until problems with the feed caused the incubated eggs to die at 19 days resulting in an irrecoverable loss of baby chicks. The chicks had been sold domestically and internationally, so along with tighter export laws, this loss caused the family to return to milking cows again.

Today the 26 acre Oake Knoll Farm is a dairy and vegetable farm with a roadside farmstand.

## O'NEIL FARM

*Duxbury, 1800*

While it is believed that Nathan Chandler founded the farm on Winter Street in Duxbury in 1800, his descendants suspect that the property may be traced further back to Edmund Chandler in 1633. Timber, cattle, horses, oxen, hay, salt hay, trout and maple syrup were originally raised on the farm.

Ebenezer Avery moved from Vermont in 1866 and bought some land from Nathan Chandler's estate. The farm was later owned by Avery's son-in-law Horatio Chandler, who owned the farm with his wife Rosamond (Avery) Chandler, then Edward S. and Rosa A. O'Neil (1917-1922), and now by Edward C. and Carl D. O'Neil, making at least five generations that have worked the land.

Horatio Chandler was a pioneer in aquaculture having started a trout farm in 1890. Ebenezer Avery brought some maple saplings from Vermont with the intention of harvesting maple syrup. Though the current owners don't know how that venture worked out, a few of the trees still survive on the farm.

In the fall of 1968, after a superior hay harvest, the O'Neils had a fire in their hay mow in the middle of the night. Neighbors and townspeople pitched in to help the family out. One neighbor came over to take the smoldering roof and hay off the barn, which could not support the weight of any more water. As a result, everything below the haymow floor was saved. The family was not insured so townspeople got together and donated enough money to buy materials to replace the roof. A local contractor donated his time and that of his crew to supervise dozens of volunteers in the reconstruction of the roof. The work was done in one weekend in a truly old fashioned "barn raising." The O'Neils had to install the roofing; management of the herd during reconstruction was taxing but the cows are still here.

Today, the O'Neil Farm is a 145 acre dairy operation.

## PAINE FARMS

*Ludlow, 1749*

Moses and Jonathan Paine founded Paine Farms on Paine Avenue in Ludlow in 1749 through a land grant from King George II. The farm was 640 acres – one square mile – and grew “everything a farm grew” according to current owners Merrill B. and Mary A. Paine.

Some seven generations of Paines have owned and worked this land including founder Moses and wife Abigail (Adams) Paine, David and Abigail (Shepard) Paine, Jonathan and Sally (Hayden) Paine, David K. and Marcia (Fuller) Paine, Alfred Kinsley and Minnietta (Olds) Paine, Herman C. and Olive (Baily) Paine. and Merrill and Mary Paine.

Today beef and hay are raised on Paine Farm.

## PHELPS FARM

*Hadley, 1750*

Moses Porter founded the Phelps Farm on River Drive in Hadley in 1750. Cattle, hay, corn and vegetables were originally raised on the farm.

Ten generations of the Porter, Phelps, Bulfinch, Huntington, Sessions and Scott family have owned and worked this land in the Connecticut River Valley of Western Massachusetts. Family owners include founder Moses Porter, Charles Phelps, Charles P. Phelps, sons and daughters of Charles P. Phelps, Susan Ellen Bulfinch, ED. Huntington, Ruth G. H. Sessions, John A. Sessions, Doheny H. Sessions, and current owner Jane Ann Scott.

Today, the land is rented by another Hadley farmer who raises hay, corn, and sheep on the 63 acres.

## PILOT GROVE FARM

*Stow, 1782*

Abijah Warren founded Pilot Grove Farm on Crescent Street in Stow in 1782. In 1790 when Abijah learned that pilots of ships entering Boston Harbor could see and use as a guide some very tall pine trees on a hill on the farm, he decided to name the farm Pilot Grove Farm. Although most of the tall pines were lost in the hurricanes of 1938 and 1944, some young red pines set out in 1927 have now grown to about 75 feet in height.

Dairy cattle, apple and peach orchards, and vegetables such as asparagus and squash were originally grown on the farm. In the early 1800s the family operated a tannery along the farm brook.

Six generations of Warrens have owned and farmed this land including founder Abijah Warren, Jonas Warren, Francis W. Warren, Henry H. Warren, Francis W. Warren and current owner Francis W. Warren, Jr. who acquired the farm in 1974.

Today, sheep and lambs are raised for meat and wool products and pumpkins are grown on the 85 acre farm. Pilot Grove Farm has a farm store and they sell directly to consumers. If you can't visit the farm in Stow, visit them on-line at [www.ultranet.com/~pgfarm/](http://www.ultranet.com/~pgfarm/).



## RICHARD D. BELDEN FARM

*North Hatfield, 1661*

The farm that is now the Richard D. Belden Farm on Depot Road in North Hatfield was founded by Samuel Belden in 1661. Current owner Richard D. Belden is a direct descendent of Samuel Belden. The house that Richard owns with his wife Joyce was built in 1900 as a wedding gift for his grandfather Oscar. In fact, there has always been a direct descendent of the original owner living in this house.

Belden family members that have owned and worked this Hampshire County land including founder Samuel Belden (1661), John Belden (1700), Joseph Belden (1726), Joseph Belden (1755), Samuel Belden (1825), Sanford Belden (1840), Oscar Belden (1870), Oscar Belden and Sons (1890), Clifford L. and Luther Belden (1932), Clifford L. Belden (1947), and now Richard D. Belden.

Crops and livestock grown on the farm's original 25 acres were onions, tobacco, beef cattle, hay, potatoes and corn. Today the farm is 80 acres and is rented to two other farmers who raise nursery crops, strawberries, raspberries, cucumbers, peppers and corn.

## RICHARDSON'S FARMS, INC.

*Middleton, 1690*

David Richardson founded Richard's Farm on South Main Street in Middleton in 1690. Cows and vegetables were raised on the land.

Richardson family members that have owned and farmed this Essex County land include founder David Richardson, Solomon Richardson, Stephan Richardson, Jeremiah Richardson, Benjamin P. Richardson, Hazen K. Richardson, Benjamin and Hazen Richardson, and current owners Paul Richardson and his brother-in-law William Daniels.

Today, silage corn and dairy cows are raised and the Richardsons bottle their own milk and make their own ice cream which they sell in their farmstand.

## RIDGE HILL FARM

*Boxborough, 1682*

Zebdiah Wheeler established Ridge Hill Farm on Hill Road in Boxborough in 1682, buying the land from the Nipmuc Indians for 20 bushels of maize (corn). Originally hops and beans were grown on the 350 acres.

Ridge Hill Farm has passed through ten generations of the Wheeler, Whitcomb, Walker and Morse family, including founder Zebdiah Wheeler, Parthinas Wheeler, Ephriam Whitcomb, Ephriam Whitcomb Jr., Moses Whitcomb, Daniel Whitcomb, Betsy Walker, Henry Walker, Albion and Stella Morse, and current owner Donald C. Morse who acquired the farm in 1974.

Today, beef cattle are raised on these 82 acres in Middlesex County.

## RIDGEVIEW FARM

*Williamstown, 1765*

Moses Young founded Ridgeview Farm on Sloan Road in Williamstown in 1765. Prior to that, the Young family brought Irish potatoes from Ireland. The potato, native to Central America, was taken to Europe and then eventually spread to Ireland. Farmers like the Young family eventually brought the potato to New England.

The Youngs cleared the 100 acres, made butter and raised horses in the early days. The land passed from generation to generation: from Moses Young it passed to James Young, then Erastus Bliss Young, Frank Young, E. Bliss Young, Oeuntin Phelps Young, and finally current owner Jeffrey Moses Young who acquired the land in 1987.

Hay is raised today on the now 88 acres in scenic Berkshire County.

## ROCKHOUSE FARM

*Huntington, c.1825*

Rockhouse Farm on Montgomery Road in Huntington was established around 1825 by Nahum and Nancy Stowell. Early products were logs, vegetables, dairy cows and chickens. The farm was originally about 110 acres.

This Hampshire County farm is used today in much the same way as it has been over the past 175 years. Multiple generations work the farm together to provide wood for heat, food for the families and the excess is sold. Past generations to own and operate Rockhouse Farm include founders Nahum and Nancy Stowell, Dwight and Nancy Stowell, Elam and Rosa Gibbs, Orel and Almira Manley and current owner Gerald Manley.

Manley produces logs, firewood, berries, beef cattle, and vegetables on approximately 200 acres in Hampshire County.

## ROUNDHILL ORCHARD

*Southampton, c. 1800*

Roundhill Orchard on Douglas Road in Southampton was founded by George Barnes and Jinny Thankful around 1800. Apples and potatoes were among the first crops on the 600 acre farm.

Past family members to own the land include founder George Barnes, Archibald Douglas, Lewis and Jean Douglas Miller, and current owners Kate Miller Carl and Alfred R. Carl, Jr.

Today Roundhill Orchard produces berries, peaches, pears, plums, apples, and honey which are sold wholesale, in their farmstand and at farmers' markets.



## SARGENT FARM LLC

*Merrimac, 1670*

Thomas Sargent established Sargent Farm on Bear Hill Road in Merrimac in 1670. The farm started small, growing corn, grains, hay, strawberries and apples. The Sargents also kept oxen and work horses and cut salt marsh hay in Salisbury as well as cord wood and cedar fence posts. As succeeding generations of neighbors lost interest in farming, the Sargents kept adding land. Today the farm is 500 acres.

Numerous generations of Sargents have owned and worked this Essex County land, including founder Thomas Sargent (died 1706), Thomas Sargent (died 1719), Captain Moses Sargent (died 1756), Deacon Orlando Sargent (died 1803), Moses Sargent (died 1836), Jonathan Sargent (died 1859) and Moses Sargent Jr. (died 1862), George Washington Sargent (died 1904), Homer R. (died 1940, Edgar P. (died 1945) and George A. (died 1951) Sargent, Richard E., G. Leonard and Edgar P. Sargent, and current owners Robert and Jane Sargent. The farm is now operated by Jason and R. Scott Sargent.

Until about 1800 Sargent family members did not have middle names. Records of births, marriages, deaths were kept in large bibles which the current owners still have. Those with the same name were identified by birth and death dates.

A stream on the farm was dammed to form a mill pond. A saw mill with an up and down saw was first powered by water, then steam, then by gasoline, then diesel, and finally by diesel/electricity. Ice was cut in the winter and packed in sawdust. Grain was ground in a grist mill. All that remain are the foundations. Farm oxen were used to dig cellar holes downtown and rocks picked from the farm were used to build foundations.

Today, silage corn, alfalfa, and a few beef cattle are raised on the farm. Compost is also produced.

## SILVERMINE FARM

*Sutton, 1717*

John Stockwell founded Silvermine Farm on Eight Lots Road in Sutton in 1717. The farm was originally 250 acres – one tenth of the entire town. Jonathan Stockwell, a Revolutionary War veteran, bought 40 acres from his brother, John, for 10 pounds.

Many generations of the Stockwell family have been owners and stewards of this Worcester County farm including founder John Stockwell, Jonathan Stockwell, Stephen and Mehitabel Stockwell, Enoch and Nancy Stockwell, George Frank and Harriet Stockwell, George Kiren and Martha Stockwell, George Lewis and Carrie Stockwell, Wilfred and Jean Stockwell, Robert and Margaret Stockwell Cole, and current owners Jeffrey and Martha Cole.

Jeff and Martha met at Bates College and after married for eight years, discovered that they were both descended from William Stockwell, John and Jonathan's father.

Today, Silvermine farm produces strawberries and hay on 62 ½ acres.

## SPRING BROOK FARM

*Littleton, 1713*

Peter Proctor founded part of what is now Spring Brook Farm on Great Road in Littleton in 1713. He was a captain in the French and Indian War and for his services was granted a deed to this land by the King. The other portion of the farm was founded by Stephen Pingry in 1756. The two farms were combined to form Spring Brook Farm.

Six generations of two families have farmed this land including Peter Proctor, Robert Proctor, Nathaniel Proctor, Nathaniel Proctor Jr., Joel Proctor, George E. Proctor, Lizzie (Proctor) Stone, and Arria (Stone) Proctor. In the Pingry family, past owners include Stephen Pingry, Stephen Pingry Jr., John Pingry, Franklin Pingry, John Pingry. Current owners are Frank and Eunice (Pingry) Matheson who acquired the farm in 1951.

Part of the present farm house was built before the American Revolution. Ancestors on both sides of the family fought in the Revolutionary War. In fact, one was a minuteman who joined the other embattled farmers at the Concord Bridge on April 19, 1775.

Today, this 395 acre farm in Middlesex County produces grains, forage crops, hay, lumber and vegetables.

## SPRING VALLEY FARM

*Orange, c. 1800*

Warren L. Johnson, Sr. founded Spring Valley Farm on Johnson Road in Orange in the early 1800s. Originally the farm was about 85 acres and potatoes were grown on part of it. Other early crops were strawberries, corn, and melons. Dairy cattle for a door to door milk route and horses for plowing and haying were also kept. Later some land was sold to the town for what is now known as South Cemetery.

The land has been owned and worked by three successive generations of Warren Johnsons: founder Warren L. Johnson, Sr., Frank E. and Warren L. Johnson, Jr., and Warren R. Johnson.

In the 1950s, Warren R. Johnson started up a roadside vegetable stand. Today, it is still in business, run by his children: Russell, 84, Justin, 80, and daughter Nancy (Johnson) Carr and her husband James. Who raised six children on the farm and now have ten grandchildren.

Pumpkins, butternut squash, acorn squash and buttercup squash are grown today.

## STEVENS FARM

*Barre, 1789*

Stevens Farm on Old Coldbrook Road in Barre was established by James Piper in 1789. Cows, horses and pigs were raised on the 15 acre farm in the early years.

Nine generations of the Piper and Stevens family have been stewards of this land in Worcester County. Owners include founder James Piper, Agustice Piper, Caroline Piper, James Stevens, Samuel Stevens, Herman Stevens and current owners Richard and Irene Stevens. Richard and Irene's grandchildren are the 9<sup>th</sup> generation living on the farm.

The Piper family owned the farm across the street and then after marrying into the Stevens family established one farm. When Richard Stevens' father Herman was a young child, the stagecoach from Worcester used to come by the farm and he waited for hours to see President Theodore Roosevelt. When the coach came by he stopped and shook hands with him.

Today, Stevens Farm produces replacement dairy heifers, hay, horses, chickens and corn on 350 acres. They also operate a bed and breakfast.

## STIMSON FARM

*Princeton, 1743*

Jedidiah Brigham founded what is now the Stimson Farm on Thompson Road in Princeton in 1743. He invested 75 pounds to purchase the land. At that time the pound was worth about \$5, thus he bought the 237 acres for \$375. Dairy cows, hay, and silage corn were raised at that time.

This Worcester County land has passed through nine generations of the Brigham, Thompson and Stimson family, including founder Jedidiah Brigham (1743-1759), Stephen Brigham (1759-1798), Abner Brigham (1798-1824), Lucius Brigham (1824-1836), Abijah and Jerusha Thompson (1836-1896), Charles Hamilton Thompson (1896-1912), Charles Frederick Thompson (1912-1957), W. Brooks and Louise Thompson Stimson (1957-1973), and current owner Charles B. Stimson who acquired the land in 1973. The Stimson's four sons: Craig, 40, Chris, 40, Stephen, 39 and David, 34, represent the 10<sup>th</sup> generation on this farm.

Today Stimson Farm raises replacement heifers and hay on 109 acres.

## STONE FARM

*Oakham, 1765*

Captain Isaac Stone founded the Stone Farm on Stone Road in Oakham in 1765. Cattle and field crops were raised on the original 140 acres.

Successive generations of the Stone family have worked this land including founder Isaac Stone, George Washington Stone, Henry W. Stone, Sr. and current owners Henry W. Stone, Jr. and his wife Josephine Stone who acquired the farm in 1952.

George Washington Stone was president of the Soldiers' Union and a Representative in the Massachusetts State Legislature from 1901 to 1927. He was also one of the town library builders.

The present residence is at least the third house built on the same location. The present house was built in 1926 after the previous one burned to the ground. The new house was built from chestnut wood from the farm. The present owners have weathered several hurricanes and a tornado. The 1953 tornado struck this area forcefully but the house did not even creak. The heavy beamed barn moved slightly as it rested on a stone foundation.

Today this 205 acre Worcester County farm is used for forage and hay.

## SUNNY CREST ORCHARDS

*Sterling, 1880*

Thomas Hawkins founded the farm that is now Sunny Crest Orchards on Hawkins Lane in Sterling in 1880. The farm originally raised dairy cows on 29 acres.

Successive generations of the Hawkins and Broderick family have owned and tended this land, including founder Thomas Hawkins, William E. Broderick, Henry T. Broderick, and current owner William E. Broderick who acquired the farm in 1985.

Today, apples and peaches are grown on this Worcester County land and sold wholesale.

## TOBEY FARM

*Dennis, 1681*

Thomas Tobey founded Tobey Farm on Route 6A in Dennis in 1681. He was granted the original 20 acres on Cape Cod by the King for his father's service in the King Philip wars. He listed as missing in action.

Eleven generations of Thomas Tobey's descendants have owned and worked this land including Ruth Tobey Shiverick in the late 1800s, Asa Shiverick in the early 1900s, Arthur and Mary Shiverick between 1930 and 1962, Mary Shiverick Fishler from 1962 to 1984, and current owners brother and sister Ben Fishler and Mary Fishler-Fisk who acquired the farm in 1984.

Lieutenant Seth Tobey was a soldier in the American Revolution when he owned the farm in the 1700s. A later Seth Tobey, in the 1800s, was involved in what we now call agri-tainment. During Halloween he would take young trick or treaters (dressed up as "horribles") on a hayride and then treat them to some strawberry wine. Today, Ben and Mary continue that tradition in a non-alcoholic manner: they offer scary and not-so-scary hayrides during October. Visitors to the farm go on a hayride to find the "golden treasure of the giant pumpkin."

At various times during the past 300 years, the farm has raised cattle, dairy cows, hay, fruits and vegetables, tobacco, cranberries, and, most recently, flowers. Bedding plants and potted flowers, dried floral craft items, garden products, fresh vegetables, jams and jellies, baked goods and gift items are all sold in their country store. Rooted in American history, Tobey Farm has branched out into cyberspace at [www.tobeyfarm.com](http://www.tobeyfarm.com).

*Concord Hymn**by Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
Here once the embattled farmers stood  
And fired the shot heard round the world.*

*The foe long since in silence slept;  
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;  
And Time the ruined bridge has swept  
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.*

*On this green bank, by this soft stream,  
We set today a votive stone;  
That memory may their deed redeem,  
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.*

*Spirit, that made those heroes dare  
To die, and leave their children free,  
Bid Time and Nature gently spare  
The shaft we raise to them and thee.*

## TURKEY HOLLOW FARM

*Pembroke, 1888*

George H. Crossley established Turkey Hollow Farm on Water Street in Pembroke in 1888. He bought the 30 acre farm at auction for \$775 and named it “Turkey Holler Farm.” Current owners Charles (Chuck) and Carolyn Crossley renamed it “Turkey Hollow Farm.”

George Crossley raised market garden crops and eggs. He was also a draft horse contractor working for the town and local saw mills transporting lumber, clearing snow, and many other tasks, which could only be done by a strong team of draft horses. George kept journals recording the number of eggs he sold and the payment received. One entry dated April 23, 1894 indicates that he sold a dozen eggs for 14 cents.

The farm has passed on from father to son through the years and eventually Chuck and Carolyn found themselves with the task of preserving the family farm. After George died, the house was passed to his son Charles. He kept the farm and the draft horses and tried to support his family as his father did performing odd jobs for the town and local establishments. After Charles and his wife Ellen passed away, the farm went to their only child, James Crossley – Chuck’s dad. The house passed on to Chuck in 1990.

Today the farm is supported in part by hayrides that the Crossleys do for fundraisers, private parties, parades, etc. The farm is home to a small menagerie: four Belgian draft horses (Jack, Dick, Roy, and Millie), two pigs (Betty and Phyllis) and 25 chickens whose eggs are sold. Chuck and Carolyn plan to add a cow, several sheep and a dozen turkeys in the Spring. They also keep a large garden and grow hay. Carolyn says that because the town of Pembroke is growing year by year and so much of the open space is being developed, she and Chuck feel very lucky that they have kept the family farm alive.

## WALTER K. MORSS & SON FARM

*Boxford, 1713*

In 1713, Richard Pearl founded the farm that today is Walter K. Morss & Son Farm on Lake Shore Road in Boxford. Vegetables and dairy cows were raised on more than 200 acres. The farm also featured a grist mill.

Seven descendants of Richard Pearl have owned this land in Essex County including John Pearl, another John Pearl, Simeon Pearl, John Pearl, John Myron Pearl, Walter and Ruth (Pearl) Morss and current owner Stanwood R. Morss.

One room of the original house was recreated in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and was known as the Pearl-Brown Room.

Standwood Morss grows raspberries, strawberries, blueberries and rhubarb which he sells pick-your-own, wholesale and mail order. He points out that at 76 he is the last farmer of the family line and when he retires the farm will go out of the family.

## WILLIAMS & ALGER, INC.

*South Carver, 1893*

George H. Williams founded the Williams & Alger farm on Wareham Street in South Carver in 1893. He bought the original farm – originally an apple orchard – located on Jabez Maxim Road between Huckleberry Corner in South Carver and West Wareham, added to it and began building cranberry bogs.

At one time the front of the house served as a storefront for travelers. During the 1938 and 1944 hurricanes, most of the apple trees were destroyed. During World War II there was a portable sawmill on the property. Around 1970 a sawmill was begun to serve local cranberry growers in the off season. It continues today as R.D. Williams, Inc., a full time sawmill specializing in eastern white pine. A cranberry receiving station was built in 1986 to serve local cranberry growers.

Numerous members of the Williams and Alger family have owned this land in Plymouth County – cranberry country – including founder George H. Williams; Hilma Williams, Robert D., Roger and Paul Williams, and Hilma Alger; Robert C. and George B. Williams.

Today the family continues to operate the cranberry bogs, sawmill and cranberry receiving station.

## WILSON FARMS, INC.

*Lexington, 1884*

James A. and W.M. Wilson founded Wilson Farm on Pleasant Street in Lexington in 1884. They had emigrated from Enniskillen, Ireland with their brother-in-law George Renyolds and bought 16 acres of land and rented some of the surrounding fields for farming. James was the salesman and the other partners worked the farm, growing vegetable crops and plants including cabbage, white turnip, celery, carrots, and beets.

In the late 1800s farmers from Lexington and nearby towns took their produce to Boston to sell at Quincy Market. In the evening many small farmers would bring their produce to James A. Wilson, who would combine the partial loads in order to fill the market wagons. The wagons were pulled by teams of road horses as the work horses were retired for the day. On the return trip from market the wagons would stop at the Boston area hotels and pick up garbage to be used as feed for the pigs. If the driver fell asleep, as sometimes happened, the horses knew the roads and could find their own way home.

During the winter months trips to the market were less frequent, thus vegetables were stored in pits. These pits were covered with salt marsh hay and boards to maintain the temperature at 34-36 degrees Fahrenheit until all the vegetables were sold at market. Slow winter days were spent in the barn repairing equipment.

As James A. Wilson's sons joined the family business, the other two partners lost interest. W.M. Wilson and his family went into a successful textile dyeing business. George Renyolds sold his interest to James to pursue other ventures. Around 1920 James A. turned his farm over to his two sons, Walter and Stanley. They operated the business in much the same way that James had until the early 1950s. At that time their sons Donald and Alan took over the farm and opened a retail stand.

Today, the farm has expanded from 16 acres to 33 acres in this Middlesex County town. Due to suburban constraints in this area, Wilson Farm has expanded to 250 more acres in Litchfield, New Hampshire.



## WOLF HILL FARM

*Southampton, 1764*

In 1764 Zophar Searle founded Wolf Hill Farm on Russellville Road in Southampton. Dairy cows and feed were raised on the original 60 acres. The farm name came from an ancestor who killed a wolf on the mountain where his livestock was being pastured.

Some six generations of the Searle family have owned and farmed this land, including founder Zophar Searle, Cornelius Searle, Cornelius E. Searle, O.C. Searle, E.C. Searle Sr., and current owner Myron Searle who acquired the farm in 1966.

The original homestead burned in 1830 and the present home, in which Myron lives, was built that same year by townspeople.

Dairy feed is raised today on this Hampshire County land.

## WOODSLAWN FARM

*Colrain, 1784*

Joseph Purinton founded Woodslawn farm on Wilson Hill Road in Colrain in 1784. The farm was a 250 acre self-sufficient homestead that raised fruits, sheep, cattle and horses.

Successive generations of the Purinton and Purington family have farmed this land including founder Deacon Joseph Purinton, Deacon David Purinton, Thomas Purinton whose sister Marion married later owner Orren D. Purington, Agnes and George Purington, and current owners Herbert and Barbara Purington and Robert and Joyce Purington who acquired the farm in 1953.

Today, the Woodslawn Farm produces dairy cows, hay, corn, grass silage and cordwood on 388 acres in Franklin County.

## OFFICIAL AGRICULTURAL, HORTICULTURAL AND FOOD SYMBOLS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

### *State Horse or Horse Emblem*

The MORGAN HORSE (*Equus caballus morganensis*), descended from a little bay stallion born in West Springfield, MA, in 1789, who could outrun and outwork any horse brought against him. Named "Figure" by his owner, schoolteacher and singing master Justin Morgan, in later years he was known by his master's own name, "Justin Morgan". The gallant little horse died in Vermont in 1821 at the age of 32; the sturdy breed bearing his name was adopted as the state horse in 1970.

### *State Insect or Insect Emblem*

The LADYBUG; also lady beetle, ladybird, ladyfly, etc. Most common in the state is the Two-Spotted Lady Beetle (*Adalia bipunctata*). Its head is black with pale yellowish margins; elytra reddish, with two black spots. Idea originated in 1974 with a second-grade class in the Town of Franklin.

### *State Flower or Floral Emblem*

The MAYFLOWER (*Epigaea regens*), also commonly known as the ground laurel or trailing arbutus, has ovate hairy leaves and fragrant, pink or white, spring-blooming flowers with five petals. It grows in woods, preferring sandy or rocky soil, under or near evergreens. It was adopted as the official flower of the Commonwealth by the General Court on May 1, 1918. Unfortunately, since 1925 it has been on the endangered list.

### *State Tree or Tree Emblem*

The AMERICAN ELM (*Ulmus Americana*) was adopted as the official tree March 21, 1941, to commemorate the fact that General George Washington took command of the Continental Army beneath one on Cambridge Common in 1775. It is a large tree, with gray flaky bark. When growing in the forest it often attains a height of 120 feet, but in the open it is wide-spreading and of lesser height. The leaves are oval, and dark green, turning to a clear yellow in the autumn. The American Elm, like most elms, has been severely afflicted by Elm Disease.

### *State Beverage*

CRANBERRY JUICE was named the beverage of the Commonwealth on May 4, 1970. This was a tribute to the great Massachusetts cranberry industry, which grows the largest crop in the world.

***State Berry or Berry Emblem***

A fifth-grade class on the North Shore adopted the cause of making the CRANBERRY (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) the official berry of the state. Their two years of lobbying, petitions, and hearings were finally rewarded in July of 1994.

***State Bean or Bean Emblem***

Cultivated plants and the colloquial names for them change over the centuries, but in 1993 the legislature finally determined that the NAVY BEAN had been the original bean in the famous and venerable Boston Baked Bean recipe.

***State Muffin***

The schoolchildren of Massachusetts petitioned for the CORN MUFFIN, a staple of New England cooking, and the Legislature made it official in 1986.

***State Dessert***

The BOSTON CREAM PIE, created in the 19th century, was chosen as the official state dessert on December 12, 1996. A civics class from Norton High School sponsored the bill. The pie beat out other candidates, including the toll house cookie and Indian pudding.

***State Cookie***

The CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE was designated the official cookie of the Commonwealth on July 9, 1997. A third grade class from Somerset proposed the bill to honor the cookie invented in 1930 at the Toll House Restaurant in Whitman.

***Soil of the Commonwealth***

The PAXTON SOIL SERIES was adopted by the Legislature on July 10, 1990.

Source: Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office web site at  
<http://www.state.ma.us/sec/cis/cismaf/mf1a.htm#flow>.

**MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURE TODAY**

- There are 6,000 farms in Massachusetts, which preserve 570,000 acres of open space in the form of fertile, scenic and productive farmland.
- Massachusetts' agricultural cash receipts totaled \$459 million in 1998.
- Massachusetts is first in New England for direct sales of farm products to consumers. At \$20 million in direct sales, Massachusetts farmers were responsible for 35 percent of New England's total.
- Massachusetts ranks seventh nationally in total value of direct sales, following California, Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin, respectively.
- Massachusetts ranks second nationally in value of average direct market sales per farm at \$16,000 per farm.
- Massachusetts ranks eighth in the nation for the value of fruit production at more than \$148 million.
- More than 80 percent of Massachusetts farms are family-owned. Over 93 percent fit the category of "small farms" according to the USDA definition of sales below \$250,000.
- Nearly \$212 million is spent by farmers statewide on farm inputs such as feed, seed, livestock, fertilizer, electricity and fuel.
- Massachusetts ranks fourth in the U.S. for farmland value at \$6,450 per acre. The state also ranks fourth for net farm income per acre at \$327.
- The state's food processing industry generates about \$2 billion in revenue annually and employs nearly 19,000 workers.
- Agricultural exports from Massachusetts in 1997 totaled \$300 million and supported 3,600 jobs.
- Agriculture generates \$21 million in income tax revenue annually in Massachusetts. The entire food industry -- including farms, food processing, grocery stores, restaurants, and agricultural suppliers -- generates \$283 million in income tax revenue.

Sources: New England Agricultural Statistics, 1999 and U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1997  
 Compiled by: the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114, 617-626-1700, [www.massdfa.org](http://www.massdfa.org).